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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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MAY, 1913

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Sixth Annual Spring Rose Show

Friday and Saturday, May 9 & 10

McFadden-Buxton Arcade

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
Fifty Cents per Year, Five Cents per Copy

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About The Rose Show, May 9-10

This is a plea for a larger, freer spirit with regard to our May rose show. Ninety and nine thoughts for the show, and one for its effect upon ourselves. A prayer for exhibits to make the show a success, not to win awards. Won't you take a real interest in this show and exhibit in one of the many classes? Please note that you are asked to choose a class and comply with the conditions: The packages of miscellaneous blooms wadded together in a newspaper and hopelessly wilted before their arrival at the show room, are an embarassment to the officials and swell the garbage bill; moreover, they show a lukewarm interest that is like the Church of Ephesus.

The handsome vote in favor of the tree ordinance for San Diego shows that as a City it desires to be beautiful and attractive. Fortunately, because work is good for both body and soul, we have not arrived at that stage of omnipotence when we can say, "Let there be trees, and beauty", and the thing is done. We have to let the faith shown by our vote at the polls in March shine forth in works. Why not begin with the Rose Show? Officials of the San Diego Floral Association in conversation with brother officers from other cities, have found that the universal opinion is that a Floral Association to be successful must grow with its community. They must be young and small together and march abreast to adolescence and size. Such has been the case with San Diego and its Floral Association, so far, and it behooves the city to see that in its lusty growth it still carries with it the organization that costs so little and means so much.

It will be news, and a surprise perhaps to many, to learn that recently a representative from another city visited us just to learn about our Floral Association and its methods, having been sent here as the most likely place in the West to get useful information. Also, that without solicitation in any form, subscriptions to California Garden come in steadily from near and far. One last week from New York. Four from a northern city, all because of a stray copy which the subscribers describe as so eminently practicable and readable. This magazine has appeared every month for four years, with the next June number, and has never paid a cent for the writing of one word in its pages. The City of San Diego owes a big debt to its Floral Association, and this is in the nature of a statement for collection. If she would not earn the worst of all names, "Ingrate", but desires to have that good feeling that comes to all who pay cheerfully, she has merely to keep in mind the Rose Show and exhibit and attend. The Rose Show is part of the Floral Association; the Floral Association is part of San Diego, and it is therefore very much all in the family.

Training Roses for the Show

This is the number of the rose. On May 9th and 10th, on the third floor of the McFadden and Buxton Arcade, she will show, like Cleopatra, that "Age cannot wither nor custom stale her infinite variety," in what it is hoped will prove the best Rose Show ever given by the San Diego Floral Association. The Rose Show has always been misunderstood, but that is another matter. When this is read there will probably be only a few days to the show, so that the main work of producing blooms, will be over, but certain points must be watched. Don't let the bushes suffer for water. A thorough irrigation about a week before the show is safe, even if at the time the ground seems plenty wet. Sulphur at the first indication of mildew. Watch for Aphis and Caterpillar. Perhaps a little nitrate of Soda sprinkled on the moist ground immediately after irrigation might help, but it would have to have mighty quick action.

These little articles on the rose have been written in vain if they have not inculcated the idea that good roses are won by concentration of effort, and again it must be emphasised. In these last few days remove all full blown roses and those that will obviously open too soon for the show. Pick them in the bud stage with good long stems and decorate your house, or better, give them to a friend with a reminder for the rose show. If you have the necessary nerve, throw all the energies of the bush into the six best buds, by cutting back everything else, and while doing so think how those six would have pushed ahead, if the rest had never been allowed to gain headway. The greed of us is the chief obstacle in the raising of really fine roses. We want quantity. In our decoration we bundle them together till the quantity and not the beauty of them is the wonder. How often do we see one perfect rose in a vase by itself, and yet that is the way to give the bloom a chance.

Where roses are budded on other stock, a sharp lookout for suckers must be kept, and do not confine inspection to the immediate neighborhood of the stem. They often run two and three feet before peeping out. Just cutting off at the surface is of little use, they must be removed where they break from a root or the stem. In spite of current opinion roses will do well as standards in San Diego. The California Garden has many absolute novices in garden matters as readers it is glad to say. For these it is added that a standard rose is one that is budded high up on the stem of the stock instead of having the juncture just below the surface of the soil. Roses budded as standard last year, on Point Loma, are looking exceedingly well this spring, being better in foliage and bud than the same kind as bushes. The varieties are General McArthur red, Joseph Hill, shrimp pink, and Lyon rose apricot. The latter appearing particularly grateful for being up in the air. If we may have standard roses, they will help out tremendously in our more formal gardens. It takes at least two years to grow stock for budding as standards. The wild rose or rose canina being generally used, though probably the Climbing Cecile Bruner might be made to do service. Are we to see any new rose grown by a San Diegan at this show? There are several of great promise within the city limits, but these little plants cannot be made to bloom on time. One of them is a polyantha with a deep orange color and delightful fragrance. The writer has seen the most wonderful Papa Gontiers ever, this spring, raised by a Floral Association member who has never exhibited, and it looks as if the old victors must look to their roses if they would retain their laurels.

Rose Show, McFadden-Buxton Arcade, Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

Howard & Smith, Los Angeles Florists, have remodelled their Olive Street buildings and opened a very much up-to-date flower store.

Rose Show [*May 9 & 10*]

We want YOU to be there!

VALIANT FIGHT MADE BY THE "LITTLE LANDERS"

Mr. Josiah Poeton, of the Little Landers Coloney, San Ysidro, appeared by invitation before the San Diego Rotary Club, at a noon-day luncheon recently, and told of the struggles, the ambitions, and the successes of this band of pioneers, upon whose ultimate triumph in this back-to-the-land movement depends the happiness of many thousands of our citizens as well as the people of other lands.

It is a well-known fact that other states are keeping in close touch with this fight to demonstrate that a living can be made upon an acre of land. Wisconsin has already started a colony upon a plan patterned after that of our Little Landers. When Robert La Follette was in San Diego he refused invitations to be shown the beauties of San Diego, because he wanted to spend every spare moment at San Ysidro, studying the Little Landers. Unquestionably countless thousands would give up the hustle and worry of business life tomorrow, and go "back to the lands" with a happy sigh of relief, if it could be shown them that they could make a living with the limited capital at their command. It is the free, honest, healthful life, and for millions of people it would mean the solution of their most difficult problems.

Mr. Poeten said in part as follows:

"We are working upon the theory that every family should have just as much land as that family can properly cultivate without hiring help. On that basis, we figure that the little Tia Juana valley in which we are located, could support 20,000 people, and if an acre produced $1.00 per day, that valley alone would bring forth $2,000,000 annually. Consider what San Diego County could produce under this intensive cultivation, and then think of the millions of acres of the states of the nation, and the nations of the world, capable of being intensively cultivated.

"Already Wisconsin has it figured out that any number of these colonies can be started, as the possibilities are made known and the demand increases, at practically no chance of loss to the state itself. Land now worth up to $100 per acre will increase to $1000 and upward, and the security would be of the best.

"The trouble in the past has been and still is, that neither the small nor the large farmer knows how to take care of his land. They must be taught how not to rob the soil, and how to enrich it when it becomes depleted.

"Every tourist to Tia Juana cranes his neck to see the Little Landers' farms, and doubtless when they pass they have naught but a feeling of pity for those who appear to be making such a hard fight against great odds.

"They may save their pity. The Little Landers are living well. They believe in producing what they eat, and they are pretty nearly doing it. And it is fresh when they eat it.

"The earnest and even pitiful appeals for news of the Little Landers movement, is but another demonstration of the fact that the world is in the twilight between two eras. Great causes are at work, which at times cause eruptions and show bad blood.

"The nation must help its people to become established in happy homes, and the people must help establish the nation on the right foundation of fairness and justice. We must rise to a higher plane in our business, social and intellectural lives.

"The first need is a real home for the family, an insurance against poverty in our old age, the evening of life. We must give every man his chance. In the beginning a man, a woman, an apple tree and a few fig leaves made a paradise. That combination will make a paradise today. We must get back to the land. Cut out a lot of our useless business operations. See your children by daylight. The success of this movement will take away the need of state insurance; it will make men and women worthy of the name; it will have really done something for humanity.

"The tendency of the times is toward fellowship and brotherly love, but many of the lodges, clubs, and other organizations established for this very purpose are so busy over-doing brotherly love they haven't time to practice it.

"No willing man or woman should be denied a home because they have no money. A man nearly seventy came to us two years

ago with $250. Today he has an acre of ground and his town lot. His holdings are worth $1200, and his future is safe. He will never lack for something to eat. Where else could you have put such a man and given him a better chance?

"Community life is most enjoyable and profitable. The best feature of life at San Ysidro is the "get together" spirit. We are living the simple life, but these rural communities can be made much more desirable places in which to live than the cities.

"Three years ago, I was refused $2.00 worth of newspapers for the Little Landers without cash in advance. We are now putting in an extensive irrigating system and recently offered $20,000 worth of bonds for sale. When the bids were opened they totalled $60,000. One bank insisted upon being given the whole issue, and the banker said he took the bonds because he considered them a gilt-edged investment.

"This nation can create garden cities, filled with thousands of happy, prosperous people."

Architectural Possibilities of the Lath House

V. O. Wallingford

I did not intend to enter into this discussion of Lath-House Architecture, but the temptation has become too strong, and the invitation in the last number of the California Garden to someone to say something is so urgent that probably every one who has an idea will speak it out. I am one of these.

I have an idea regarding the lath house that has grown up in my mind from two sources of stimulus. One, the development of the idea of a screen of any sort that will cut off part of the light, either horizontally or vertically; and the other stimulus being the observation of the ugly things that serve the purpose whether as screen from the passers in the street, or the sun in heaven.

Primarily, I believe that there should be no good reason or reasonable excuse for making a useful article in such form that it will be considered ugly.

Secondly, every useful article is when serving it's purpose possessed of some beauty, even tho that beauty may be only utilitarian.

Thirdly, there ought to be and doubtless is, some means of combining these two factors so as to get a desirable product.

The lath house presents a few definite requirements as to location and operation, and has certain definite purposes, all of which are well enough known to save discussion here. The chief thing that I wanted to say at this time is that the utilitarian beauty of the structure having a definite and positive purpose, can be combined with a reasonable degree of architectural and structural beauty: and at no greater expense than good construction necessarily entails.

Rather than tell you how it ought to be done in words of that arrangement, I am simply going to say that if I were building a lath house, I would build it thusly:

I would set my posts on a concrete base and anchor them in position so that they would stay there, using wood of a type and growth that would be the least subject to decay and making the posts a bit larger than tooth-picks.

Also, I am going to make my posts long enough to enable me to walk about in the lath house, even when I'm a bit swelled up—and I a little over six feet tall ordinarily, too. I wouldn't try to use any creosote or disinfectant in the wood, because I have the opinion that it would create an atmosphere that some lath house growths wouldn't enjoy. I have the notion that I would try to get some smooth round natural logs for the interior posts.

Then I would make the roof of my lath house of beams and cross beams so spaced that the lath when nailed on might run north and south (of course), and big enough that they would support me and the vines that might climb up there. Suit yourself about the weight of the vines, but I weigh two fifteen.

Part of the house would be one story high, and part of it would be higher, but there would be no intermediate floor of course, and there would be air circulation through the clere-story.

From the outside, my lath house has the appearance of a simple or a multiple pergola, with the beams and posts well and

evenly spaced, and of such proportions as give the assemblage a substantial appearance. The lath are nailed to the inner side of the posts, and to the under side of the beams, as a general rule, so that the pergola effect is maintained.

On the inside, my lath house has a long center aisle between the round columns that support the highest section, from which diverge other aisles to either side. Clear down at the far end of this cathedral of Flora, there is a stone wall with a trickle of water, and a sanctuary with seats for they who meditate, and a table for those who study gastronomy.

Then I will build my lath house two years before I expect very much of it as a "woodsy smelly place," and be patient while things are growing and the house is getting ripe; when I invite you all to come and see where I and my beloved have morning and evening and noon-day prayer with Flora and the nymphs and Pan (not Peter) and the flower fairies.

A GARDEN PLAN

Recently a good wife and her man, who are building a home, were talking to a director of the Floral Association and they put timid questions about their garden to be, and the questioned said, "Why don't you join the Floral Association and get the California Garden?" "Oh that is not for people like us, who have only a lot, and don't know anything about flowers." Well that is just for whom it is, and this talk brought up this question of garden plans. Thank God it is impossible to serve out garden plans over the counter by the sheet like Butterick patterns, and a lot of data is necessary before even a tentative one can be made. The house, its style and color, the outlook, the situation as to locality and environment, the prevailing wind, etc., etc. are all to be considered. The owner of course can be allowed a preference; in fact, if he has not a little bit of a one, he does not really want a garden at all—only a setting for his noble personality. It is not safe to leave the garden to the architect of the house, at least save in rare instances, because he will subordinate the garden to the house. However the real gardener will make the garden fit the house. He will see to it that the paths flow easily as convenience dictates, that the picture is where the window frame fits it and that the two link up properly. In brief, the gardener cannot hurt the house without hurting his garden. Not to be too harsh, but in common honesty, it must be admitted that so far San Diego gardens are chiefly conspicuous by their lack of plan. The newest ones have mostly taken form in order to gratify the owner's desire to see the latest novelty in sprinklers at work, and this has reduced the plan to grass and the labor to the turning on of a valve and a retreat to the middle of the street to watch the whole lot and the sidewalk and the unobservant passerby enveloped in mist. Of course in our land of little rain even a toy storm is inviting and refreshing and it is not surprising that the man who passes by says to his architect, "give me one of them," when he builds. One big factor at war with our gardens is the small size of our suburban lots. A fifty foot lot will not allow a house and a garden idea to turn around in it. Then we have restricted plots with so many popular improvements that even a fifty-foot lot costs so much that added to the minimum house cost the total is startling —so startling that we dare not buy the pair. Just why we should want to herd together in this way is a little mysterious, with our city limits a day's journey, by the obsolete horse, up the Coast.

It is easy enough, frightfully easy in this garden matter, to criticise, but what can we do about it? We can talk about it, exchange ideas, and discuss possibilities. If someone who wants a garden plan will send particulars to California Garden it will try in a future issue to give an idea. The seeker for a plan must describe situation, house, etc. etc. and say what he wants, and if nothing else can be done, he can be told, "You cannot have it."

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I have been told there is a complaint that I have flown too far afield and been mentioning Riverside instead of boosting for San Diego. I guess that is right, and I ought to have stayed at home and done politics, then the election might have satisfied me better.

However, there are so many things to cry about this year that I can leave spilt milk alone. There has been a little excitement our way. First surveyors ran a line of red flags right through our chicken yard and only smiled when asked to explain the intrusion, and then a man with a spade and pick went to digging prospect holes. I followed him around and watched two excavations made and abandoned and then a third begun right in a front yard. This one is still growing deeper and the mystery is explained. Gold was not the thing sought for but red gravel for garden paths, and there it was about three feet below the surface just for the digging, and what a bully hole it will be to bury tin cans, bottles, and such, when the pay streak peters out. I had a good laugh over this, for I remembered when the owner of the hole paid the owner of the surface red dirt one dollar and a quarter a yard therefor, and did his own loading and hauling five miles. A famous mustard man once said he made his money from the mustard people wasted not from what they used and I guess the principle applies to other things save mustard.

We have a peacock, or a peacock has us, and though I had taken the historical vanity of the species as a rather overdone joke, I have had to revise that opinion. We have also got a glass-house, and that peacock spends a definite time every day walking up and down on the roof studying poses, etc., through the glass, and when I tried to moralise on the absurdity of the proceeding and the waste of time, that bird only replied, "Oh, it takes an hour and a half to do my feathers." There was a sort of familiar ring to that sentence that bothers me still and seems to recall something about hair. I know that peacock is a fool but when I see his royal blue neck in the sunshine I would almost change places with him. I never took much stock in his tail for the idiocy of the proceeding necessary to display it is too much for my stomach. The insane step dance, as if he had pins and needles in both feet and the dislocation of his entire hind end to put his tail way up over his neck. No! he may have the tail.

The gardener is applying fertilizer from Mexico right under my nose. I had read some rotten things about Mexico lately, but none of them was a circumstance for odor to that stuff. It should make a plant grow up in the air to be able to take a breath without choking. Fortunately I have been reading philosophy and understand that all material things are transitory. I advise all my readers to get some of this, so that the supply may be quickly exhausted. I am trying to believe in its extreme efficiency but a smell's a smell for all that. I cannot stay any longer with you for with misplaced confidence I alighted all sitting, so to speak, on a spineless cactus, and sitting is not very good since.

Rose Show, McFadden-Buxton Arcade, Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

PREMIUM LIST

Sixth Annual Spring Rose Show

McFadden-Buxton Arcade Building
Friday and Saturday, May 9-10

Exhibit Opens at 2 p. m. Friday

CLASS 1—FOR AMATEURS.

1. Best Collection of Roses—not less than 12 varieties and not over three flowers of a kind.
2. Best Collection of six varieties of Roses—not over three of a kind.
3. Best six White Roses of one variety.
4. Best six Pink Roses of one variety.
5. Best six Red Roses of one variety.
6. Best six Yellow Roses of one variety.
7. Best Arranged Basket of Roses by any amateur (medium sized basket).
8. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers other than roses.
9. Best Display of Bulb Flowers.
10. Best Display of Pansies.
11. Best Display of Wild Flowers.
12. Best Display of Cut Flowers and Plants grown by a child.
13. Best Display of Annuals.
14. Best Flowering Plant for the house.
15. Best Individual Specimen of Decorative Plant.
16. Best Exhibit of Fern Plants.
17. Best one Rose on exhibition, irrespective of any other classification or entry.
18. Best one Rose exhibited by a Novice.
19. Best Display from a 50-foot lot.
20. Best Display of Cut Blooms from a subdivision opened not more than two years.

Special—Best Collection of Flowers grown by any one public school.

CLASS 2—FOR PROFESSIONALS.

21. Best Collection of Twenty-five Varieties of Roses—not less than three nor more than six of each kind.
22. Best Twelve Bed Roses of one variety.
23. Best Twelve Yellow Roses of one variety
24. Best Twelve Pink Roses of one variety.
25. Best Twelve White Roses of one variety.
26. Handsomest Vase of Roses—not over twenty-five blooms.
27. Best Exhibit of Ferns.
28. Best Exhibit of Cut Ornamental Vines.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Plants offered for competition must have been the property of the exhibitor at least three months.

Cut flowers exhibited shall, as far as possible, be accompanied by some of their foliage and buds. The committee, will welcome exhibits, however small, even a single specimen, if meritorious.

The Committee on Awards is authorized to give suitable prizes for any meritorious exhibit not named on the premium list.

No prize shall be awarded for any article on exhibition unless it possesses points of superiority.

In no case can any article placed on exhibition be removed until after the close of the show.

Any plant placed in a collection competing for a certain premium shall not compete for any other premium.

Awards will be decided on the first day, and announced as soon as possible.

No premiums will be given to competitors failing to keep up their exhibits.

For the protection of property, exhibitors will not be allowed to dispose of cut flowers or plants until the official close of the exhibition.

Exhibits are not confined to members of the Association—any one may exhibit—but it is hoped every exhibitor will become a member.

Exhibits must be in place not later than noon Friday, May 9th, when the judges will begin to award the prizes.

A clerk will be at the hall to make entries all Friday morning.

DIRECTIONS FOR BRINGING ROSES TO THE SHOW.

Flowers should be cut the night before rather close and put in water over night—or cut very early in the morning and stood in water for an hour.

Then they must be carefully packed in shallow paper or wooden boxes, which have been lined with damp newspapers.

Do not crowd the flowers into boxes, and be careful that the end of buds do not touch the box. Make an effort to fasten flowers in the box so they will not slip. Take a coarse stitch with twine through bottom of box or nail a brace in the wooden box to hold the contents firm. If large sprays and branches of roses are gathered they should be sprinkled and damp paper laid between each branch.

Information given by the Secretary, 1627 E St., Main 584.

What to Do in the May Gardens

The Vegetable Garden

George P. Hall

The joyful month of May is not the time to plant things in the moon, but right down in the best garden soil you have, or can secure. Put in everything you have been wanting to raise, but either forgot, or it was not seasonable to do so. Gemini or the Twins, rule the month and it is a time when they hushed the tempest and brought joy to troubled hearts, so this is about the last chance to plan for a generous crop of peas. They will come up well and supplement those you ought to be gathering from former plantings. It is the month of ardent caresses by the sun god, who warms up the soil so all the sun-loving plants can express their appreciation. Tomatoes, (Beefsteak and Stones); Peppers, Bullnose and Chili; Egg Plant, (Thoburn's Improved, Spineless is the newest and best); Okra, (the white velvet have long tender pods). Be sure and get your sweet potatoes in this month as it requires five months for them to mature and November nights are distasteful to them. All the melon, pumpkin and squash family will be grateful for an opportunity to show you how, in well prepared hills in which you have put a shovel of well-rotted manure, they will reward your pains in their behalf. Do not expect in any half famished soil to get returns from any plant. It must have its compliment of humus—leaf mold is a good illustration of what humus is—and all plants need it, especially in stiff clay soils and in washed out sandy soils. Plant radishes. It seems to me you get more for your work from the large white Chinese and Japanese kinds. If you are in a hurry for some, use the small turnip, globe or oval sorts, they grow quickly and are tender. Of lettuce, there is a host to choose from; Prize head grows well in the warm weather; the "wonderful" seems to supply all seasons demand. Lettuce requires good deep cultivation of the soil. We see people sometimes making shallow drills in stiff clayey soil, then they sprinkle the ground sufficiently to make it as hard as it can be without turning to stone. They pour on more water, never cultivate, and then complain that lettuce will not grow for them. This is especially the month for beans. Even the "hasbeens" take on new life and Limas that lived over through last January will come up smiling with a vigorous crop, but the new large mammoth Bush Limas are a whole meal for a hungry family. The pole beans, wax and field varieties all will rejoice to be in the soil where they can get down to business this month. Keep planting till September and you have a lot in the fall all set in the pods which will mature during the cool months. The same with tomatoes. Get some seed in boxes so you can have plenty of plants for August planting which will give you winter tomatoes. By the way, do not depend on water entirely to raise your tomatoes. Too much water gives lots of vine but scant fruit. Mr. Brown of San Ysidro, gave us a bit of experience along this line. He and a partner had twenty-three acres. The partner wanted to water his all the time. Brown said no, so they divided the field and Brown watered lightly and did a lot of cultivating. The partner swilled on the water, and got from his half fourteen tons, while Brown got 124 tons; his partner took to bed with the blue mumps. Kale, carrots, vegetable oysters, parsnips and onion sets should all go in this month for successive crops, and potatoes for family use can be planted ever weekday from now till August, when you can put in a larger patch. There is no reason why, from now on, if you will keep planting and gathering, cultivating and judiciously watering, that you may not have an abundance for the table and poultry, rabbits and market. Plant the flower garden, sowing all the annuals and perennials and transplanting "mums". Be careful with small seeds and do not smother them. What mother would cover her baby up head and ears in thick double quilts and expect it not to "smother", but you do smother seeds every year, and you ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Protect them from the sun with cheesecloth 'till they are able to bear the full light. Not too late to put in summer flowering bulbs. They will make good in the fall. Do not exhaust your roses by letting them

bear a big crop of "rose apples." Pull them off when the blossoms drop, unless you are trying to raise new varieties. Plant in May every day.

If you have only a small garden do not hesitate about planting different kinds of squash, pumpkins and melons in the same lot. The folly would be to use the seed from them next year but the fruit this year will be all right. Casabas should be planted now and in July.

Plant all the herbs like sage, mint, anise cumin, rue, rosemary. Plant superfluous Thomas cats at the base of the apricot trees, it will improve their flavor.

The Flower Garden

Mary A. Matthews

As you go through the garden this month take your note book with you and put down items as regards growth of the various things in the beds and borders that you want to change. Make a memorandum of just what is blooming at this time of the year, their height, color, duration of bloom, etc., so that when you are rearranging, the work can be done in a satisfactory manner.

To make a successful garden means closest acquaintance with flowers and plants. Their habits must be studied and they must be given care and thought all the time, most of our garden plants, in the permanent class, take nearly a year to grow before they bloom. Spring flowering bulbs were set in the fall and now if blooms are past, and if in the way of summer flowers, can be carefully lifted and planted in a reserve bed till they are well ripened, then dry them off and put away in paper bags in a cool place 'till time for replanting. Note what spot and soil suited them best and where each kind was most effective.

Anyone who really loves their garden will always have an eye to the future. One of the chief pleasures is looking forward to something better and more beautiful each season. Equally with this is the pleasure of cutting and giving our choice blooms, and the benefit is two-fold; to those to whom we give, and to ourselves, for the more we cut, the more the plant will reward us with choice blooms.

This is a good month to sow seeds of biennials and perennials for late winter and spring blooming. Campanulas, del-

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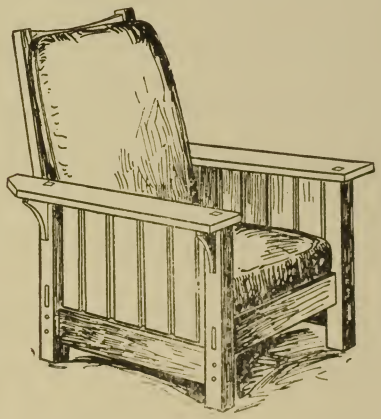

¶ These magnificent goods, made by Gustav Stickley, in the Craftsman workshops, are shown on our fourth floor in a large assortment of pieces for living room, library and dining room.

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The Marston Company

phiniums, shasta daisies, penstemons, dianthus, sweet Williams, hardy lupins, etc., will all, if sown this month and next, bloom early next season. Seeds of these cost a little more bought in separate colors but are much more satisfactory if you want to carry out a color scheme, and growing from named seeds is the best way to get a good collection of plants in a short time.

The Cineraria is one of our showiest blooming flowers for Spring, and are grown readily from seed sown in a very fine soil. Press down firmly with the hand and keep them moist all the time. When they begin to make three or four leaves transplant them into flats some distance apart and grow them on in a cool place 'till fall.

Put in Sweet Peas for fall blooming. Continue to plant Chrysanthemums and Dahlia tubers. All the various tropical shrubs that will grow in this locality can be planted this month. The list is a long one and a good way to get what is suited to your purpose is to visit the nuseries and gardens where you can see them growing and decide what you want; but always bear in mind that individuality is one of the chief charms of a garden. Don't grow things just because your neighbor has them or some one tells you you ought to have it, for where we grow that thing for which we have a strong preference we are very much more apt to make a success. We study its habits, its likes, and cater to them, and so bring it to perfection, and our gardens, taken as a whole, will have much more variety in them as tastes vary so, and will give a much wider range, than if we all grew just the same thing.

There is one thing though this month we must all unite in, that is in wielding the hoe, vigorously, so as to keep down the weeds, and loosen the soil, and give air and moisture to our choice things, and at the same time greatly reduce our water bills, for water poured on hard-baked soil simply dries off and gives little or no refreshment to the roots of growing things. Watch for insects, keep all dead flowers cut, except where there are seeds you wish to save. Keep the soil stirred around the Gladiolus and Cannas. If in a wind exposed place a mulch will benefit, as the drying winds will have to be contended with from now on. Give Agapanthus clumps a good soaking just at the roots. Keep Japan Lilies growing right along and do not let them dry out.

If watering is done in the beds and borders by spraying overhead do it late in the evening, so things can get all the benefit possible from it during the night and early morning.

GROWING THE DAHLIA

Alfred D. Robinson

May is the month generally accepted as the best for dahlia planting in Southern California, and all tubers should be put in the ground. To save possible disappointment it is a good practice to start tubers before planting. This insures a stand and does no harm, if the shoots are not allowed to get too big. To start this growth, all that is necessary is to place the tubers on the ground and give them an occasional sprinkling.

Dahlias do not sprout from the tubers like potatoes, but from the crown, and the tubers without a portion of the crown are valueless. Even where the tubers appear all shrivelled up but the crown is intact, a good strong shoot will often come. As a general thing the finer the dahlia, the fewer and smaller the tubers, the cactus variety runs to long thin tubers and the peony-flowered to round fat ones, and the commoner kinds make enormous clumps with many shoots.

Once again it must be mentioned that the tubers do not like stable manure next to them; no bulb or tuber does, but the best ground is that which has been heavily mulched the year before. This caution seems necessary because it is a most common practice to plant palms and other things by filling the hole half full of manure. It may not be out of place to give a few common sense reasons why this is distinctly a mistake.

A freshly planted thing does not want to be forced or stimulated till it has become established. That is, has reorganized its root system. If sufficient water is ap-

plied the wet manure becomes sour. If allowed to become dry, the plant is doomed, then the decay of the manure causes a shrinkage which leaves a hole under the plant and that also spells death or a miserable existence. You cannot give a plant a five years supply of food at one dose any more than you can feed an animal on that plan. Last month it was recommended to irrigate ground before putting in tubers and to wait for their sprouting before giving more water. It is well to get tubers fairly deep, that is, six inches below the surface, but this must be done by covering, say three inches at first and the rest after growth has started.

It is evident by the rapidity of the growth of chance seedlings and tubers that were left over in the ground, that the earth has reached the right temperature for dahlias and planting at once is recommended. With seedlings that have been raised in boxes, nip them back once and get them real hardy before putting out. Don't put them in the open straight from a lath house. Place the box outside in the full sun for a week, and see that they don't get too dry. If you have purchased green plants, or rooted cuttings, remember that these in most cases have been grown under shelter and are tender. It will pay, if they are not too numerous, to pot them or put them in a box for a few days so that you can coddle them a bit. Make up your mind whether you are going to use stakes or try the Peacock method. If stakes, set them at time of planting so that you avoid danger of spiking a tuber. If the Peacock way, keep a sharp look-out over your bed and, as each clump sprouts, cut off all but the strongest shoot and cut that back as soon as it has made three pair of leaves to the last pair, and then cut back the resulting side shoots in a similar manner. This buttresses the main stem so that it can support a good top without staking. It also tends to keep the plants down. Don't worry about fertiliser till the plants begin to make bud and before then the California Garden will have something to say about it.

There is still some of the Rosecroft seed left if you can get a new subscriber.

Rose Show, McFadden-Buxton Arcade, Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

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Queensland Nut, two years, in pots, fine stock. $1.50 each. Plant now.

WEST INDIA GARDENS

ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA

The California Garden

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

Main Office, Point Loma, California
Secretary's Office, 1627 E St., San Diego, Cal.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Elite Printing Co. 1627 E St., San Diego

May Meeting at the "Galump" House

The Floral Association will meet Tuesday evening, May 6, with Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Robinson, at their Ocean Beach bungalow. Last meeting before the Rose Show and you have due and timely notice. Take 7 o'clock car at Fourth and D. Ride to the turn beyond Ocean Beach station.

APRIL MEETING.

The Floral Association was entertained April 10, by Mrs. Anna Clough and the Misses Clough, at their home in South Park. Preparations for the Spring Rose Show occupied attention during the greater part of the meeting.

After due and careful consideration of the late lamented frost, the possibility of more rain, and other matters directly or indirectly having a bearing upon the health and happiness of the Rose family, it was decided to hold the show Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

Committees on location, program, prizes, premium list and publicity were appointed. The admission price was fixed at fifteen cents for the afternoons and twenty-five cents in the evening, when various other interesting features will be given in addition to the floral exhibition.

An invitation given by Pres. and Mrs. A. D. Robinson to meet in May at the "Galump House," their Ocean Beach bungalow, was accepted and the date fixed for Tuesday evening, May 6. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

JUNE ELECTION

San Diego Club House, Friday evening, ~~May 16, at~~ 8 o'clock. June 1?

Only a month now to the annual election of the Seven Directors of the Floral Association and this is to give notice that following the usual practice the Secretary will receive nominations from members so that a list may be ready when the time for action comes.

It is hoped that members will give serious thought to this matter and remember that having served, or not having served, is neither a sound reason for electing or disqualifying. It is without doubt an honor to be an officer of the Floral Association, and there are many members competent to serve who would do so if they could be made to realize it was their turn. The next year will be probably far the most important one in the history of the Association. There is the question of a home, and the stirring of the City to prepare florally for 1915. Year by year the Floral Association has attracted more and more respectful attention from outside its home sphere, and its six-year record is remarkably clean and clear. No man in the city can dismiss a call to serve as a Director with the thought that it is too small a matter for him to bother with. Giving all credit, which is justly theirs, to those who have borne the burden of initiating and establishing this activity, is it not time that others should lend a hand? The officers of other civic bodies change regularly. San Diego proves continually that she wants and is proud of her Floral Association and its organ the California Garden, by regular and generous support of both, now is the time for her to say, "Here are great possibilities, and here is the foundation, let us get in and dig them out." Let every member, even if hitherto his active participation has been confined to payment of dues once a year, send in nominations and then come to the annual election and vote. It is too much to expect our best citizens to nominate themselves, but they might nominate one another.

A knowledge of things floral is not necessary to make a good Director of the Floral Association. Some Directors in the past have even found it an embarassment because it was the little knowledge that proved a dangerous thing.

Every Citizen Should Be Interested in Rose Show

The San Diego Floral Association has secured the third floor of the McFadden-Buxton Arcade Building in which to hold its Sixth Annual Spring Rose Show, and the date set is Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

For two years the spring show has been given at Mission Cliff Pavilion, where the stage setting, by reason of the delightful floral surroundings, is all that could be desired, but there is a flower show every day in the year at Mission Cliff, so it was thought best to vary the program and "bring the mountain to Mohamet," or in other words, give the rose show where the people are thickest.

The Arcade will be the center of interest at this time, because of the very recent remodelling of this building, and everybody will be glad of an opportunity, of seeing the upper as well as the main floor, and under such favorable conditions as flowers, music and other entertainment features will afford.

The very ample floor space makes it possible to arrange several attractive features aside from the competitive exhibit of roses, and other spring flowers.

The Floral Association aims to show by an unusually fine exhibit of cut flowers, that our one and only real frost in sixty years did not have a lasting effect upon this land of flowers. It will demonstrate that many plants were benefited rather than harmed by the freeze.

The premium list shows two new classes which should be of interest. One is for the best exhibit of cut flowers from a subdivision two years old. If some of the subdividers take advantage of this opportunity, it will give them a chance to demonstrate the possibilities of plant growth in virgin soil, and will be a source of satisfaction to the newcomer, besides covering themselves with glory. The other new class is for the one best rose exhibit by a novice—a person who has never exhibited before.

It is still time to select the most promising buds for the exhibition blooms and nip off the rest, and pay close attention to the diet, so that the exhibition at the Arcade, May 9 and 10, will be the best by long odds ever held in Southern California.

In mentioning the connection of Mr. Bush with The Taylor Studios, some of our readers may have inferred that the Torii Shop had retired from business, but such an inference was in no way intended. We are informed that it will be reopened as soon as a suitable location is secured.

V. O. WALLINGFORD
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Cut Flowers

Floral Designs

Branch in McFadden & Buxton Arcade Bldg.

SOME PERENNIAL AND HARDY BULBS

Morea Iridoides is one of the good things for every garden to have. It flourishes without constant care, is ever green, a fast grower into a big clump, grows well from seed and may bloom at any time of the year. It is like a perennial iris, growing fully three feet in height. The flowers are light, three inches in diameter and dainty in colorings. The plant is decorative, even out of bloom.

Mrs. Wade, of Montecito, Cal., near Santa Barbara, who has made a specialty of bulbs, grows this morea in large quantities and considers it one of her best flowers. The plants have stood well during the late cold and an early blooming iris that is a perenniel has flourished and grown fast during this winter. It is the Japonica funbriata.

This season I am trying some well recommended montbretias. The common sort is so sturdy and generous in flowering that if other good colors can be found they will be very useful for late summer color effects and the flowers are very attractive even when closely examined.

The California State University Agricultural Department is planning to be of more practical value to the farmers of the state by equipping and sending agricultural trains through all the farming sections, endeavoring to spread a general knowledge of the latest methods and appliances. Short two-weeks' courses of instruction will also be arranged, which will undertake to cover in an intensive way two or three related lines of agricultural practice.

Rose Show, McFadden-Buxton Arcade, Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10.

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ROBINSON'S CORNER

I HAVE been thinking about dry years, and this one in particular, and trying to fit it in with the doctrine that all is for the best, in this best of all worlds.

¶ Just as I get the two adjusted, an abnormal water bill tips the balance, and when that is behind me, the price of hay makes me furiously to think. Of course I realize it is a "sending", most probably, to punish the wicked of Los Angeles or Riverside, for there are none in San Diego, but that does not water a thirsty land, or make the hay dealer turn philanthropist.

¶ There is an old saying that "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good" and this must apply to a dry year. Looking around my restricted domain, I have sought the thing that might possibly say, "It is a dry year" with a chuckle, and as I write that last word I find what I sought. The word should be "cackle" and not "chuckle", for the chicken is still doing business at the same old nest. And by the way, Rosecroft has quit incubating and will sell two dozen strictly first class females and a few males at prices that will make a purchaser forget whether it rained or not.

¶ Price of lots (I mean chickens) will be positively advanced next month. Please write or call—don't telephone; am trying to occupy a new house and it is too confusing to allow me to be rational over the phone. *(Oh, the address is Rosecroft Barred Rock Yards, Point Loma, California.)*

FOR TWO LONG YEARS we have been *"casting our bread upon the waters"* by doing our work a little better than seemed necessary, and now, day by day, it is returning to us. Only yesterday these bits of angel food came drifting in:—

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